with in the territory of India and they are duty bound to obey the court judgement/orders.

Special Identity Cards for physically handicapped

1109. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Special Identity Cards have been issued for the physically challenged people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such cards distributed so far; and

(d) the steps Government are taking to help the physically handicapped people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Guidelines were circulated in August, 2000 for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations for issue of Identity Cards to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). The actual issue of Identity Cards comes within the purview of State Governments/UT Administrations and therefore, all information regarding the Identity Cards is available with the State Governments/UT Administrations.

(d) Steps Government is taking to help physically handicapped people are:-

1) Grant in aid assistance is released to voluntary organizations for running special education and vocational training programmes, placement services, shelter workshops, home based services, etc.

2) Scheme of assistance of disabled persons for purchase and fitting of aids and appliances (ADIP).

3) National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) provides loans on soft terms through State Channalising Agencies to persons with disability for self-employment and income generating activities.

4) There are six National/Apex Institutes under the aegis of the Ministry

working for the welfare and rehabilitation of disabled as well as manpower development, research, etc.

5) Scheme for setting up Composite Regional Centres for providing composite rehabilitation services and Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and other orthopedic disabilities.

6) Eleven District Rehabilitation Centres have been set up to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled. 4 RRTCs have also been set up for training and manpower development in their field of rehabilitation.

7) 133 districts in the country have been selected for setting up of District Disability Rehabilitation Centres of which 108 are functional.

8) Science and Technology Project in Mission Mode for developing appropriate and innovative technological appliances for the benefit of disabled persons.

9) National Trust for the Persons with Autism, Mental Retardation, Cerebral Palsy and Multiple Disabilities extends support to registered organisations to provide need based services during periods of crisis in the family of the persons with disability and also promotes measures for care and protection of these persons in the event of death of their parents or guardians.

10) A Scheme of National Scholarship for Persons with Disabilities was introduced from the year 2002-2003. Every year 250 awards each for male students and female students in different categories of disabilities will be given for pursuing higher and technical education.

Scheme for elderly people

1110. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government's consideration to extend unemployment allowances, health care for elderly people and any other relief measures for the disabled and orphans;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the annual expenditure to be incurred; and